GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1029
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2016
Bio-Terrorism
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make the laboratories of Indian Council of Medical Research capable to fight against bio-terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to take help from foreign organisations for the said purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a) & (b): The Department of Health Research is setting up a three tiered national network of Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) under its ongoing research scheme viz. Establishment of network of Laboratories for Managing Epidemics and Natural Calamities. The Department is committed to set up a total of 160 VRDLs all across the country. These VRDLs are being equipped to handle 30-35 viruses of public health importance. These laboratories will also handle the possible cases of bio-terrorism.

(c) & (d): The Department of Health Research has not sought assistance from any foreign organization to enable these laboratories to fight against bio-terrorism. However, NIV, (National Institute of Virology) Pune has received financial assistance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta as per the Global Health Security agenda, for "Enhancing bio risk mitigation awareness in public health community and creating laboratory networks for enhanced diagnostic capabilities to deal with surveillance and outbreaks of high risk group viral pathogens causing viral hemorrhagic fevers and respiratory infections".